

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 were examined and reported in the Office Action. Claims 1 and 14 are rejected. Claims 1, 2, 8-12 and 14-15 are amended. Claims 1-18 remain. Applicant has amended claim 8 to clarify the meaning of PSP by adding the "principal states of polarization" before the use of PSP.

Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following remarks.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

It is asserted in the Office Action that claims 1 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,271,952 issued to Epworth ("Epworth").

Applicant notes the Examiner asserted in the Office Action that the limitations contained in claim 2 and 15 describing "a band-pass filter that filters a particular frequency component of an electrical spectrum, of an electrical signal from an optical tap" would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has amended claim 1 with the limitations contained in claim 2. Applicant has amended claim 14 with the limitations of claim 15. Accordingly, Applicant's amended claims 1 and 14 are now allowable.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejections for claims 1 and 14 are respectfully requested.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's assertion that claims 2-13 and 15-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As asserted above, Applicant has added re-written claims 1 and 14 to include the allowable limitations of claims 2 and 15, respectively.

Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1-18 as they now stand, are allowable for the reasons given above.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending, namely 1-18, patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on September 7, 2005.


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